

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, MX, US
SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR STORY ON ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM TO
COPE WITH ILLEGAL-ALIEN PROBLEM

1. EXCELSIOR MAY 11 CARRIES STORY BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FAUSTO FERNANDEZ PONTE WHICH PURPORTS TO SUMMARIZE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY CABINET COMMITTEE ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION. IN STORY FERNANDEZ CLAIMS MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE: (A) MORE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO PERMIT STRICTER SURVEILLANCE OF MEXICAN BORDER; (B) LEGISLATION MAKING IT CRIME TO EMPLOY ALIENS WHO ARE ILLEGALLY IN THE U.S.; (C) AMNESTY FOR PERSONS WHO ENTERED U.S. ILLEGALLY BEFORE DEC. 31, 1970 AND ARE STILL THERE, WITH PROVISION FOR THEM TO OBTAIN U.S. LEGAL RESIDENCE AND EVENTUALLY CITIZENSHIP. TO OBTAIN LEGAL RESIDENCE SUCH PERSONS MUST PROVE THEY ARE INTEGRATED INTO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE AND HAVE RESPECTED U.S. LAWS. ACCORDING TO FERNANDEZ, CABINET COMMITTEE ESTIMATED THAT NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGNERS WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN RESIDENCE UNDER AMNESTY PROVISION BY VIRTUE OF HAVING ENTERED COUNTRY BEFORE 1970 IS 600,000. HE STATES THAT "WHITE HOUSE BELIEVES THAT MILLIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS WOULD LEAVE COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY ONCE LAW MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO

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OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT IS PROMULGATED"; AND (D) USG EFFORT TO ENLIST COOPERATION OF GOM AND 14 OTHER COUNTRIES TO REDUCE OR LIMIT EXODUS OF THEIR NATIONALS TO U.S.

2. FERNANDEZ POINTEDLY CLAIMS THAT NONE OF THE MEASURES TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEM OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS INCLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF

MEXICO AS A MEANS OF REDUCING THE FLOW OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS TO THE U.S.

3. FERNANDEZ' ARTICLE STATES THAT PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY WERE EXPLAINED BRIEFLY TO GOM OFFICIALS DURING MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN SAN DIEGO ON APRIL 21. ARTICLE FURTHER STATES THAT ADMINISTRATION POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER LEGISLATIVELY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY IN COURSE OF THIS MONTH "IN ORDER THAT IT MAY GO INTO FULL EFFECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE THE SUMMER GOVERNMENTAL RECESS." IT CITES SOURCES CONNECTED WITH THE CABINET COMMITTEE AS SAYING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IN TWO WEEKS.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN SURVEILLANCE OF MEXICAN BORDER, FERNANDEZ STATES THAT PROGRAM CONTEMPLATES TRANSFORMING DEA OFFICE OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTO FBI DIVISION, "WITH IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR MEXICO." ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT OFFICIALS OF TREASURY, JUSTICE AND LABOR ESTIMATE THAT NUMBER OF EMPLOYED UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IS 1,300,000 AND BELIEVE THAT IF THESE JOBS WERE HELD BY USCITS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN U.S. WOULD BE REDUCED FROM 7.3 PCT TO 6 PCT.

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY QUOTING ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL AS STATING THAT "MASSIVE DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS WOULD BE INHUMANE AND IN MY OPINION IMPRACTICAL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY FOREIGNERS IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY IF WE PASS LAWS WHICH MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO OBTAIN A JOB."

6. COMMENT: ARTICLE WAS CARRIED ON PAGE 3 OF EXCELSIOR AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT EXTENT OF MEXICAN REACTION. GENERAL SLANT AND INACCURACIES IN ARTICLE, HOWEVER, COULD WELL STIMULATE OFFICIAL CONCERN AND PRESS INQUIRIES SINCE ISSUE OF ILLEGALS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF LOCAL PRESS ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES OVER PAST MONTH. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO SUCH INQUIRIES ON IF-ASKED BASIS. THOMPSON

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